

## **JAMBOREE REQUEST**

A jamboree is once-in-a-lifetime experience, something that a young Scout aged 11 to 14 years will remember for the rest of their days.

But, for many Scouts and adult volunteers, the Pacific Jamboree (PJ '11) that will occur from July 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2011 will be just one more missed opportunity. In spite of their best efforts, they simply will not be able to afford the trip. While the jamboree fees are reasonable (\$550, food included), the costs of getting to and from PJ can be quite high.

The economic downturn has left many communities in B.C. and the Yukon in straightened circumstances – and the young Scouts (male and female) who are trying to fundraise their way to PJ are finding it an insurmountable goal.

The economy has also made it difficult for Jamboree organizers to afford some infrastructure requirements. Communication and information technology, for example, are critical to a Jamboree's success – and to the safety, security and general well-being of its participants.

How can your company help? You might consider donating or loaning equipment such as laptops, cell phones, etc. Or you may help to sponsor a Scout troop or individual youth.

### **Backgrounder:**

What is a jamboree?

A jamboree is the wide smile on the face of a Scout who has just scaled a climbing wall for the first time. A jamboree is the inter-locked arms of a large group of Scouts and Venturers dancing to the music of the Arrogant Worms. A jamboree is the tired limbs and faces of a weary group of Scouts and leaders who have just returned from a long hike. A jamboree is the laughter and loud whoops of a horde of Scouts splashing in cold lake water.

A jamboree challenges you. A jamboree makes you work. And a jamboree keeps you in a constant state of excitement and expectation. A jamboree is fun. A jamboree is fellowship. A jamboree is memories to last a lifetime.

A jamboree helps you appreciate your fellow Scouts and your leaders in a way you never thought possible. And a jamboree helps you realize some things about your self and your abilities that you never thought possible.

If you attend a jamboree, you'll be more tired that you've ever been before. You'll be hungry enough to eat everything in front of you (whether it's your favourite or not). You'll be happy enough to get along with everyone there (even if you thought you would

never like them). And you'll be satisfied and fulfilled enough to think that life could never be better!

A jamboree is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. You may attend other Scout gatherings. You may even volunteer to work at other jamborees. But most Scouts only get to attend one jamboree as a participant – and it's an experience they treasure for the rest of their lives.

The origins of the word are uncertain, but Lord Robert Baden-Powell used the term for the first world Scout gathering in Olympia, England in 1920. He wrote: "People give different meanings for this word, but from this year on, *jamboree* will take a specific meaning. It will be associated to the largest gathering of youth that ever took place."

2007 (Scouting's centenary) was the last great year for jamborees. There was a Pacific Jamboree at Camp Byng (Sechelt, B.C.); there was a Canadian Jamboree at Camp Tamaracouta (near Saint-Jérôme, Québec); and there was a World Jamboree at Hylands Park (Chelmsford, England).

2011 will see the next Pacific Jamboree (again at Camp Byng) and the next World Jamboree at Rinkaby (near Kristianstad, Sweden).

Jamborees occur in 4-year cycles, so that (theoretically, at least) all Scouts would have an opportunity to attend at least one jamboree during their Scouting tenure.

Since WJ (World Jamboree) is beyond the means of most Scouts, PJ '11 takes on an added importance. The theme of "Lord of the Rings" should make the jamboree a particularly attractive destination.

Camp Byng is a unique, 200-acre campground situated on the Sechelt Peninsula, also known as the Sunshine Coast. Camp Byng consists of 4 lodges with Cub hulls, treed camping areas, creeks, 2 meadows with shelters, a chapel and many trails for the ultimate outdoor experience. A kilometer long ocean waterfront affords opportunities for beach activities, studying marine life and watching passing cruise ships. Since its official opening in 1922, Camp Byng has hosted thousands of Scout youth and other youth organizations. The Jamboree Unit Subcamps of Lothlorien, Newfoglith, Ent, Gondor are nestled deep in the west coast cedar forest, where Units will be assigned their campsites. Offers of Service volunteers will camp in Subcamp Avalon.